

**The Power of Touch:
Being in Touch through the Healing Power of Touching the World
Mark 3:1-19**

A Wheat Street Bible Study

Teacher: Rev. Ralph Basui Watkins, DMin, PhD
Interim Pastor



The Sabbath Issue: Dealing with Those Who Wait

Mark 3:1-6

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. **2** They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. **3** And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” **4** Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent.

5 He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their

hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. **6** The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Jesus enters the synagogue and immediately he notices those who are in need. Whenever we gather we have to pay special attention to those who are in need. We have to be mindful not so much what we need but rather how we can meet the needs of others. When we seek to meet the needs of others our needs are filled in the process. When we love and share acts of love and kindness we get something in return.

While Jesus is concerned about the needs of the man with the withered hand “They” watched him to see what he was going to do. They were inspecting not expecting. “They” continue to miss God because they are inspecting and are

more worried about what is going on rather than be thankful for what was going on.

1. We have to make sure we are not they.
2. We have to find ways to deal with those who are “they” and are trying to get in the way of our experiencing God.
3. Jesus first act was to respond to the man in need. The first thing we have to do when it comes to dealing with “them” is to keep on doing what we are called to do.
4. Jesus didn’t attack “them.” Jesus posed a question that had an obvious answer. Jesus’ question to them literally shuts them up.
5. Jesus was mad but he didn’t act up. He asked the question, gave them the look and went on and did the good he was sent to do. The lesson here is don’t let “them” stop you from doing what God has sent you to do. Don’t get sidetracked because you can’t stop “them” from being who they are but you can stop them from making you not be what you are called to be.
6. In the end “they” went out and partnered with the Herodians and tried to get a crowd to stop Jesus. We know how this story ends. They always try to get a crowd but we must move on and not worry about “them.”

Questions for Us:

Who is trying to get in our / your way?

Who are “they” in our church and in our life?

Who do we know is conspiring to stop what God is trying to do in your life and or in our church?

We are instructed to mark them. Not to get them or seek to retaliate but rather simply to be mindful and then cautious about how we interact with “them.”

See: 1st Timothy 1:18-20

18 I am giving you these instructions, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, **19** having faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have suffered shipwreck in the faith; **20** among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have turned over to Satan, so that they may learn not to blaspheme.

The Healing Touch: The Power of Christians and the Church to Touch the World

Mark 3:7-12

7 Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; **8** hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. **9** He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; **10** for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. **11** Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, "You are the Son of God!" **12** But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

The people followed Jesus:

1. They heard what he was doing. The word got out.
2. He was responding to the people, meeting their needs and healing them.

I am amazed how we have returned over and over to some of the same themes, scenes and actions of Jesus in these first few chapters. While I may sound like a broken record I am not choosing the tune. This is the witness Jesus left and the model of ministry Jesus is calling us to.

We have to get the word out.

We are to respond to the needs of those around us.

What does your family need from you?

How can you show the love of Christ to your family?

How can the church show the love of Christ to the world?

How can we show the love of Christ to our fellow church members?

How is God calling us to show love?

How can you meet the needs of others without denying what you need for yourself?

How are you doing with self-care and self-love? You have to love yourself to be able to fully love others and meet their needs. If you don't love and take care of yourself you can't fully love and meet the needs of others. To love and care for others does not imply self sacrifice, abuse or neglect of yourself.

The people heard, the people followed because he had cured so many with his HEALING TOUCH!

I have said it and it is worth saying again, Jesus touched people. Literally Jesus touched them and the power of touch was and is healing.

The reason I call us to touch, to hug, to embrace with love is because:

1. I love you and somehow love is communicated via a healthy touch.
2. When we touch people we are literally healing them.
3. When we touch we are in-touch and when we don't touch we are out of touch.

When we see Jesus move what we see is that he touches people and in the touching power is transferred. Healing is transferred and people literally healed.

Who are we called to touch?

Who are you called to touch?

Who are we not touching?

Being Called Into Service: The Calling of the Twelve

Mark 3:13-19

13 He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. **14** And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, **15** and to have authority to cast out demons. **16** So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); **17** James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); **18** and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, **19** and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

The funny thing about all of those who were called they were already doing something. God called them from what they were doing to what God had for them to do now.

What is God calling you to do now?

What is God calling us to do now?

What is God calling you to leave so that you can follow?

They had to leave what they were doing to be what God was calling them to be!!